



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/613,512

07/03/2003

Peter Sheehan

09623C-045000US

4793

20350

7590

11/16/2006

TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

DANG, HUNG Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/613,512

Applicant(s)

SHEEHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Hung Q. Dang

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to application's amendment dated 9/6/2006. The amended claims 1-3, 8-10 and the added claims 11 and 12 have been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asari et al. U.S. Patent 6,031,470 McLoone U.S. Patent 6,902,332 and in further view of Allport US Pub 2005/0088333.

Regarding claim 1, Asari et al. teaches a computer interface system comprising:
a hub (Figure 1, unit 2) connected to said computer (Figure 1, unit 3) and configured to communicate wirelessly with at least two peripheral devices;
a wireless mouse (Figure 1, unit M) for wirelessly communicating with said hub;
a wireless keyboard (Figure 1, unit 12) for wirelessly communicating with said hub, said wireless keyboard having an alphanumeric keyboard and separate number pad;

However, Asari et al. does not teach a wireless, mobile media device and numeric keyboard for wirelessly communicating with said hub, said wireless mobile media device and numeric keyboard including:

- a number pad;
- a display, said mobile media device and numeric keyboard being configured to provide to said display for a music application, at least one of an artist's name, song title and track number, and for a video application, at least one of a track number, a length of a video, a video title and an elapsed time; and
- a back button, a forward button, a volume up button, a volume down button, a stop button, and a pause button.

McLoone, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a wireless keyboard, which has a wireless removably coupleable numeric/media remote control section, which has a back button, a forward button, a volume up button, a volume down button, a stop button, and a pause button for controlling TV/CD/DVD devices (column 7, lines 33 to column 8 line 5).

Since both Asari et al. and McLoone teach a wireless keyboard, and McLoone additionally suggests a separate wireless removably coupleable numeric/media remote control section having the above indicated control buttons, therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a separate wireless removably coupleable numeric/media remote control section having the above indicated control buttons to the wireless keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. so

Art Unit: 2612

that the operator can removably operate the numeric/media control section separately from said wireless keyboard (column 8, lines 1-4).

However, Asari et al. in view of McLoone does not teach displaying at least one of an artist's name, a song title and track number, for a music application; and at least one of a track number, a length of a video, a video title and an elapsed time, for a video application.

Allport teaches a remote controller, which has a display for displaying at least one of an artist's name, a song title and track number, for a music application; and at least one of a track number, a length of a video, a video title and an elapsed time, for a video application (Figure 8, and page 5 paragraphs [0059] and [0060]); and Allport also teaches the above indicated control buttons.

Since, Asari et al. in view of McLoone teaches a wireless keyboard having a separate wireless numeric/media remote control section having control buttons (indicated above) for controlling the functions of TV/CD/DVD devices; and Allport also teaches a remote control providing the same control functions, which further has a display for displaying at least one of an artist's name, a song title and track number, for a music application; and at least one of a track number, a length of a video, a video title and an elapsed time, for a video application; therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a display for displaying at least one of an artist's name, a song title and track number, for a music application; and at least one of a track number, a length of a video, a video title and an elapsed time, for a video application, to the wireless media remote control section

Art Unit: 2612

disclosed by Asari et al. in view of McLoone so that the user can view the song title, track number, or video title currently being played.

Regarding claim 2, examiner takes official notice that numeric keypad sections have been conventionally equipped with two modes of operation, a first mode as a number pad and a second mode as a calculator so that the user can perform both numerical inputs and arithmetic operations on the same numeric keypad section. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the two indicated modes of operation to the wireless mobile media device and numeric keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. in view of McLoone and Allport for the reason explained above.

Regarding claims 3 and 11, the wireless mobile media device and numeric keyboard disclosed by McLoone is also configured to provide a navigating function (Figure 9, buttons 317-322 are navigation buttons; column 7, lines 37-40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide navigation function(s) to the system disclosed by Asari et al. in view of McLoone and Allport so that movement of any image on the monitor can be achieved.

Regarding claim 4, the limitation of claim 4 is rejected for the same reasons as the rejection of claim 1 (for example: the play button can launch a media application).

Regarding claim 5, the limitation of claim 5 is rejected for the same reasons as the rejection of claim 1. The rejection of claim 1 already addresses an application for playing music and an application for displaying a video.

Regarding claim 7, McLoone also discloses the wide spread use of USB connection for connecting peripheral components to computer (column 9, lines 9-14). Therefore, by conventionality, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a connection between the hub and the computer disclosed by Asari et al. in view of McLoone and Allport, by a USB port.

5. Claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asari et al. U.S. Patent 6,031,470 McLoone U.S. Patent 6,902,332 and Allport US Pub 2005/0088333 and in further view of applicant's prior art admission.

Regarding claim 6, Asari et al. in view of McLoone and Allport teaches a system as claimed in claim 6, except wherein said wireless mouse, wireless keyboard all communicate using **Bluetooth technology** with said hub.

Applicant's prior admission on page 1 paragraph [0003] discloses the usage of Bluetooth technology between keyboard/mouse and a wireless hub by Microsoft.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Bluetooth wireless communication between the wireless mouse/keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. in view of McLoone and Allport, as evidenced by applicant's prior art admission, in order to wirelessly establish communication between said mouse/keyboard and hub.

Claim 10 is rejected for the same reasons as the rejections of claims 1, 6 and 7.

6. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asari et al. U.S. Patent 6,031,470 McLoone U.S. Patent 6,902,332 and Allport US Pub 2005/0088333 and in further view of Ideura U.S. Patent 6,714,143.

Regarding claim 12, Asari et al. in view of McLoone and Allport teaches the system of claim 11, wherein the wireless mobile media/numeric keyboard includes separate buttons for each of said number pad, calculator (the numeric section of the keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. is implicitly known to have a number pad and a calculator mode; and there are separate buttons for "+", "-" signs of the calculator mode) and navigate modes (McLoone reference; column 7, lines 33-41); a media button for launching a media application (the play button disclosed by McLoone can launch a media application).

Allport teaches a remote controller, which also includes a mute button (Figure 4, button 155) for muting the audio output of a device.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a mute button to the remote control section of the keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. in view of McLoone., as evidenced by Allport, so that the user can mute the audio output of a device.

However, Asari et al. in view of McLoone and Allport does not specifically teach a portion of the number buttons of the wireless media/numeric keyboard having a second function, said function being one of back, forward, open and close.

Ideura, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a keyboard, which includes a separate numeric section including number buttons 0-9 (figure 2), wherein a portion of

said number buttons having a second function being one of back and forward (Figures 2 and 14; column 19, lines 16-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a second function, such as back and forward functions, to a portion of the number buttons of the numeric section of the keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. in view of McLoone and Allport, as suggested by Ideura, so that the user can use the number buttons for navigation.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 8, the prior arts of record fail to teach or disclose the system of claim 1, wherein the alphanumeric keyboard and the wireless mobile media device and numeric keyboard each includes media buttons for performing the same functions as claimed in claim 1.

8. Claim 9 is allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 9, the prior arts of record fail to teach or disclose a computer interface system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wireless alphanumeric keyboard and the wireless mobile media device and numeric keyboard each includes media

Art Unit: 2612

buttons for the same functions; and wherein said media buttons include a volume up button, a volume down button and a mute button.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Q. Dang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3069. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hung Q. Dang
11/13/2006
H.D.



WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800